

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MARCH 30, 1858.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. MALLORY submitted the following

REPORT.

*The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was referred the petition of seamen on board the United States steamer Missouri, destroyed by fire at Gibraltar, in 1843, praying remuneration for the loss of their clothing, lost by the burning of that vessel, have had the same under consideration and thereupon report :*

The attention of Congress was called to the subject of the losses sustained by these meritorious men by the President, in his annual message of the 5th December, 1843, in reporting the loss of the ship, as follows : " It gives me great pain to announce to you the loss of the steamship Missouri, by fire, in the bay of Gibraltar, where she had stopped to renew her supplies of coal, on her voyage to Alexandria, with Mr. Cushing, the American minister to China, on board. There is ground for high commendation of the officers and men for the coolness, and intrepidity, and perfect submission to discipline evinced under the most trying circumstances. Surrounded by a raging fire which the utmost exertions could not subdue, and which threatened momentarily the explosion of her well supplied magazines, the officers exhibited no signs of fear, and the men obeyed every order with alacrity. Nor was she abandoned until the last gleam of hope of saving her had expired. It is well worthy of your consideration, whether the losses sustained by the officers and crew in this unfortunate affair should not be reimbursed to them."

The Missouri's officers and crew upon this occasion, as American seamen ever do, performed their duty. They have received every dollar to which they were equitably entitled under their contract with the government. The petition of the officers to be reimbursed for losses of clothing, &c., has heretofore been denied by Congress. The present petition is by seamen and forward officers. It is not founded upon any legal or equitable right arising out of their contract, but is addressed solely to the liberality of the government. The expediency of making such allowances in such cases must be regarded as very questionable, and particularly so when, as in the case before us,

fifteen years have elapsed since the losses were sustained, and it must be quite uncertain whether the parties concerned would derive much benefit from them.

Your committee feel constrained to report adversely to the prayer of the petitioners, and to ask to be discharged from its further consideration.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

March 30, 1855.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. MALLORY submitted the following

## REPORT.

The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was referred the petition of seamen on board the United States steamer Missouri, destroyed by fire at Gibraltar, in 1815, praying remuneration for the loss of their clothing, lost by the burning of their vessel, have had the same under consideration and the report:

The attention of Congress was called to the subject of the losses sustained by these meritorious men by the President, in his annual message of the 6th December, 1848, in reporting the loss of the ship. It gives me great pain to announce to you the loss of the steamship Missouri, by fire, in the bay of Gibraltar, where she had stopped to renew her supplies of coal, on her voyage to Africa, with Mr. Cushing, the American minister to China, on board. There is ground for high commendation of the officers and men for the coolness, and intrepidity, and perfect submission to discipline evinced under the most trying circumstances. Surrounded by a raging fire which the utmost exertions could not subdue, and which threatened momentarily the explosion of her well supplied magazines, the officers exhibited no signs of fear, and the men obeyed every order with alacrity. Nor was she abandoned until the last gleam of hope of saving her had expired. It is well worthy of your consideration, whether the losses sustained by the officers and crew in this unfortunate affair should not be reimbursed to them.

The Missouri's officers and crew upon this occasion, as American seamen ever do, performed their duty. They have received every dollar to which they were equitably entitled under their contract with the government. The petition of the officers to be reimbursed for losses of clothing, &c., has heretofore been denied by Congress. The present petition is by seamen and forward officers. It is not founded upon any legal or equitable right arising out of their contract, but is addressed solely to the liberality of the government. The expediency of making such allowances in such cases must be regarded as very questionable, and particularly so when, as in the case before us,